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User's Guide

AT&T Personal Computer 6300

MS™-DOS By Microsoft®

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1 Introduction

- What Is MS-DOS?
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- What Is Included with This Guide?

Some of the material in the Guide you may have seen in the User's Guide. If so, you will find yourself on familiar ground as you start to learn about MS-DOS.*

This Guide gives you the concepts and rationale behind the MS-DOS procedures you followed in the User's Guide. It presents the material in the natural sequence you follow when using MS-DOS.

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What Is MS-DOS?

MS-DOS stands for Microsoft-Disk Operating System. An operating system is the traffic director of your computer. Like the signals at a busy intersection directing cars, the computer's operating system is at the center of activity directing data. MS-DOS is the operating system designed to run your AT&T computer. It coordinates the flow of information between the screen, keyboard, memory, and storage disks. It also directs other devices attached to your computer, such as a printer or telephone coupler.

You can make your computer perform certain tasks with a set of MS-DOS commands. This guide teaches both the fundamental MS-DOS commands and the more advanced commands that will extend your computing power.

What Is Covered in This Guide?

Chapter 1 explains how to follow the examples in this Guide. It also contains a checklist of the diskettes containing MS-DOS and a list of the other manuals to help you use your computer.

Chapters 2 and 3 introduce you to the basic concepts of MS-DOS and some of the important practices you should follow when working with a computer. You will learn about diskettes and files, and the vital importance of making backup copies of your important program and data diskettes. For users of a fixed disk drive system, Chapter 3 helps you get MS-DOS started on the fixed disk.

In Chapter 4, the concepts you've learned are put into practice. Contained here is a step-by-step introduction to the most commonly used MS-DOS commands, some information about automatic processing, and a recap of some useful practices.

Chapters 5 and 6 are reference chapters. They contain alphabetic listings of each of the MS-DOS commands, their purpose, correct syntax, rules of usage, and examples that illustrate how each command is used.

At the end of this Guide are Appendices which contain information about messages that appear on your screen, EDLIN, the line editor program on your MS-DOS/GW BASIC Diskette, and some information for users of a single diskette drive system.

How to Enter Keystrokes

Later in this guide you will be provided with step-by-step procedures to follow. You are instructed to type certain words and characters and to press specific keys. It is important to type exactly what is shown in the indented example (only the boldface part):

A>**type this**

The specific keys or sequence of keys which you should press appear like this:

RETURN

or

CTRL NUM LOCK.

In a sequence of two or more keys, as shown above, press and hold the first keys while you press the last key in the list.

All other punctuation — commas, colons, slash marks, equal signs — must be entered exactly as shown.

What Is Included with This Guide?

This MS-DOS Version 2.11 User's Guide comes with the following:

- MS-DOS/GW BASIC System Diskette
  This diskette contains MS-DOS and its related programs.

- MS-DOS Supplemental Programs Diskette
  This diskette contains the LINK Utility, EXE2BIN, and DEBUG.

Both diskettes are in the plastic pocket at the back of this guide. The MS-DOS diskette referred to throughout this guide is the MS-DOS/GW BASIC Systems Diskette.